Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection
Occupational and Professional Licensing
District of Columbia Board of Barber and Cosmetology

MEETING MINUTES
December 1, 2025

The District of Columbia Board of Barber and Cosmetology (Board) held its monthly meeting on **Monday, December 1st, virtually via Zoom Teleconference.** In this Public Meeting and Executive Session, the Board discussed old and new business, regulations, complaints, and investigations.

Dr. Anwar Saleem, Board Chair, called the public meeting to order at **10:17 am** and attendance was taken.

Board Members Present: *Dr. Anwar Saleem (Chair), Dr. Richard DeCarlo, Ms. Vonetta Dumas Jennings, Mr. Jared Scott, Ms. Ajia Minnis, Mr. Dennis Smith, Ms. Korie Booker, Ms. Whitney McGill, Mr. David Cavalcante and Mr. Vernon Martin.*

Board Members Absent: *None*

Staff Members Present: *Ms. Kimberly Troxler (Board Administrator), Ms. Nicole McClendon (Program Manager), Mr. Kevin Cyrus (Education Coordinator) Ms. Irina Moore (Exam Coordinator), A'layza Mitchell (Program Support Specialist), April Randall (Legislative Director), and*

Staff Members Absent:*) Mr. Demetrius Norman (Chief Customer Experience Officer), Mr. Agustin Villadares (Legal Counsel), Shakira Richardson (Program Manager, MOTA), and Jacqueline Noisette (Deputy Administrator).*

Agenda Item: COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- **Armenetta Holsey –** Listening as an observer.
- **Aisha Massac –** Interested in the process for becoming a board member.
- **Denise Lucas (DOH) –** Listening as an observer.

Agenda Item: EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

We will now go into executive session, which is closed to the public, in order to consult with our attorneys to seek legal advice; to discuss disciplinary matters; and to deliberate upon decisions in adjudication actions and proceedings, as provided by D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(4)(A), § 2-575(b)(9), and § 2-575(b)(13). We will resume the public portion of the meeting at the conclusion of the executive session. Please stand by for our return if you are participating online.

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Richard DeCarlo, and properly seconded by Mr. Vernon Martin, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session via individual roll call.

Agenda Item: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 3rd Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Dr. Richard DeCarlo and properly seconded by Mr. Jared Scott, the Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes for November 3rd with corrections, if necessary.

Agenda Item: APPLICATIONS

- None

Agenda Item: COMPLAINTS

- None

Agenda Item: CORRESPONDENCE

- None

Agenda Item: BOARD COMMITTEES

- **Legislative Committee**
  - **Rulemaking Update –** Per April Randal l, DLCP Legislative Director, the rulemaking for the proposed legislation is currently being reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General.

- **Education Committee**
  - **IDEA Public Charter School Request to Implement Cosmetology Program Update** – Mr. Kevin Cyrus, Education Coordinator, received the monitoring plan as requested by the Board. The Board found the plan acceptable. The detailed plan addressed oversight roles, program/curriculum instruction, student attendance, knowledge tracking, facility & safety compliance and monitoring. Mr. Cyrus also received the resume for the instructor. He recommends the program be approved.

- **Examiner's Committee**
  - **Examiners Needed to Proctor Practical Exams –** The committee currently has only one member, Ms. Ajia Minnis. Dr. Anwar Saleem, Board Chair, and Vernon Martin have agreed to serve on the committee. A meeting for next week has been requested.

Agenda Item: OLD BUSINESS

- **None**

Agenda Item: NEW BUSINESS

- **National Interstate Council of State Licensing Boards (NIC) Conference 2027** – The Maryland State Board of Barber and Cosmetology will host the 2027 meeting. They've requested collaboration with the DC Board.
- **New Initiatives**
    - **License Standardization –** Creating a roadmap with other states across the nation to standardize requirements for licensure.
    - **Pathways for Youth –** Create a pathway to careers in the beauty and grooming industry to help get youths off the streets and into salons. Members of the subcommittee for this initiative are Ms. Whitney McGill, Ms. Korie Booker and Mr. Vernon Martin.
    - **Revamping the Practical Exam –** Dr. Saleem attended a practical exam session in November and expressed concerns about what he observed. He emphasized that examiners should adopt a more encouraging approach to help candidates succeed. Additionally, Dr. Saleem proposed reviewing the current qualifications for passing the exam. For instance, failing finger waving should not prevent licensure, as it is an outdated technique. Similarly, lacking the correct size curling iron should not disqualify a candidate from completing the exam. There was extensive discussion regarding challenges faced by candidates whose first language is not English. Currently, the practical exam is administered exclusively in English, and interpreters are not permitted, which creates significant obstacles for non-English speakers.

Agenda Item: REPORTS

- **November 2025**

    - *Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Vernon Martin and seconded by Ms. Korie Booker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Practical Exam reports for July, September and October 2025.*

Agenda Item: RECOMMENDATIONS

- **IDEA Public Charter School Request to Implement Cosmetology Program**

    - *Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Richard DeCarlo and seconded by Mr. Vernon Martin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the implementation of a 1500-hour cosmetology program at IDEA Public Charter School.*

- **Standardization for Licensure**

    - *Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Richard DeCarlo and seconded by Ms. Whitney McGill, the Board voted unanimously to approve working with other states and take the lead to create a roadmap for standardization of licensure across the states.*

Agenda Item: ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Ended at **12:29 pm**
    - *Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Vonetta Dumas Jennings and properly seconded by Mr. Vernon Martin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,

Anwar Saleem

Dr. Anwar Saleem, Board Chair

January 5, 2026

Date

Minutes Recorded & Prepared by: Ms. Kimberly Troxler, DLCP/OPL Board Administrator